

Chief of Chemical



**Brigadier General
Leslie C. Smith**

Army Chemical Review is dedicated to all Dragon Soldiers and friends of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps and Regiment. In June 2009, we celebrated the 91st anniversary of the Chemical Corps; Regimental Week; and the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Conference. We could not have completed a successful week without the National Defense Industrial Association, the Chemical Corps Regimental Association, and each participant who traveled to the Ozarks. A special thanks to our noncommissioned officers for planning and executing the events!

This issue of *Army Chemical Review* focuses on the transformation of the Chemical Corps as the Army transforms to deal with an era of persistent conflict. As our Nation conducts a major shift in Iraq and Afghanistan operations, we must continue to demonstrate our flexibility and relevance on both war fronts. Our efforts will focus on helping the Iraqi government and military build a chemical defense company to work military missions and serve as the nation's lead for dealing with nonproliferation requirements. We must remember that both locations remain dangerous, and we must train our Soldiers to deal with the unknown threats that exist in the operational environment—even when the threat is perceived as low.

Our Regiment (like many others) has decided to move force structure from one area to another and, in several cases, has donated this force structure or positions to the larger Army mission. Although these decisions were tough for the Regiment, I ask that you continue demonstrating the flexibility to train, advise, deploy, and remain a combat multiplier for our Army.

Over the next 90 to 180 days, we will start monthly CBRN warfighter forums to address many of the subjects that Regimental Command Sergeant Major Ted Lopez and I hear from you during our visits. Our goals are to—

- Improve communication throughout the Regiment and the entire chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives (CBRNE) community.
- Work requirements for pre- and postdeployment training. (We must ensure that all CBRN personnel are trained and prepared to respond to evolving CBRNE threats and hazards; for example, they should receive hazmat certification and refresher training at the institution and unit.)
- Serve as an after-action review committee and receive backbriefs of missions that units and individuals are executing.

The first step in developing the combating weapons of mass destruction (CWMD) enterprise was participating in the Defense Threat Reduction Agency-led, general officer/senior executive service CWMD community-of-interest meeting in October 2009. We will use that forum to share information and best practices among our CWMD community. In my view, we cannot continue to develop requirements and capabilities that do not serve our communities' efforts and do not move us forward. Look for our feedback from these events.

As part of that CWMD enterprise development, Regimental Command Sergeant Major Lopez and the command sergeants major and sergeants major of the Regiment met in October to work through some of the challenges and opportunities facing the Chemical Corps and the Army. Participants included sergeants major from other Services, deployed leaders, and representatives from all components in the Army. We look forward to the outcomes as part of the effort to move our community forward.

Please continue to send your ideas and thoughts to our world-class CBRN Knowledge Network at [https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal.do?\\$p=409522](https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal.do?$p=409522). The entire team is interested in your opinion on what we are doing right and how we can improve. We spend a lot of time placing information on this site and want to know if it is useful to you.

In October, we visited wounded warriors and their families at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. All of the Soldiers were focused on getting back to their units and continuing to contribute to the team. Please take time out of your busy schedule to visit our wounded warriors and their families. These wounded Soldiers and their families demonstrate the dedication and resilience of our Army team and what each of you means for our Nation. We are humbled to serve with you!

Congratulations to our former Chief of Chemical, Brigadier General Tom Spoehr, who was selected for promotion to major general. Well deserved!

I am proud to serve with each of you as your 25th Chief of Chemical.

***ELEMENTIS, REGAMUS, PROELIUM:
WE RULE THE BATTLE THROUGH THE ELEMENTS!***